

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PFOR, CI, UNGA, PIMS

SUBJECT: CHILEAN REACTION TO UNGA VOTES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. CHILEAN FONMIN SPOKESMAN AND MOST OF PRESS HAVE REACTED TO UNGA VOTES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CASE OF EX-FOREIGN CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA IN FAIRLY LOW KEY. USUAL LINE IS TAKEN THAT VOTES ARE RESULT OF SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF ISSUE, AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WORSE THAN CHILE. CASE OF ALMEYDA IS UNDER JURISDICTION OF CIVIL COURTS, WHICH IMPLIES THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF HIS RELEASE UNTIL COURT PROCESS HAS WORKED ITSELF OUT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REGULAR FRIDAY PRESS CONFERENCE NOV. 8, UNDER SEC FONMIN CAPTAIN CLAUDIO COLLADOS PLAYED DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF UNGA VOTES. SAID THEY WERE CULMINATION OF YEAR-LONG "INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRATION DIRECTED BY SOVIET COMMUNISM AND INTENDED TO CREATE DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR GOC." HE PUT VOTES IN CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WHERE COLD WAR TENSIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED AND NO ONE WANTS TO PROVOKE CONFLICTS

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IN UN BY FORCING IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATIONS.

"INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM" HAS EXPLOITED NATURAL CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT CHILE ITSELF WAS NOT CONDEMNED.

3. COLLADOS NOTED "UNUSUAL" UNGA CONCERN FOR ALMEYDA, WHO HE SAID IS UNDER JURISDICTION OF CHILEAN CIVIL COURTS. COLLADOS ADDED THAT THERE ARE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO CHILE'S, AND NO ATTENTION IS PAID TO THEM. PRESENT UNGA PRESIDENT AND ALGERIAN FOMIN COULD WELL NOTE THAT HIS PREDECESSOR AND CHIEF OF STATE BEN BELLA WAS DEPOSED AND HAS BEEN PRISONER 10 YEARS, WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF CONDITIONS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT.

4. SANTIAGO PRESS REPORTED UNGA VOTES WITH CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. EXCEPT FOR SCREAM OF RIGHTIST "LA SEGUNDA", IT HAS FOLLOWED UP IN LOW KEY, PRINCIPALLY IN FORM OF COMMENTS BY LEADING REGIME SUPPORTERS, AND ONLY ONE EDITORIAL. THEMES HAVE BEEN SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAMPAIGN OF DEFAMATION, AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WORSE.

5. COMMENT: AS USUAL IN PUBLIC OFFICIAL AND MEDIA COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, ONLY JUSTIFICATION FOR CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES GIVEN IS DIFFICULT SITUATION COUNTRY IS GOING THROUGH. RATHER THAN LOOKING TO SEE WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES MAY HAVE SOME BASIS FOR THEIR CONCERN, CHILEANS TEND TO PUT BLAME FOR PROBLEMS ON SOVIET MACHINATIONS AND EXPLOITATION OF OTHER'S NAIVETE.

6. ON ALMEYDA, GOC IS TAKING THE LINE THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE BEFORE HIS CASE HAS GONE THROUGH REGULAR CIVIL COURTS. GOC WILL PRESUMABLY REPLY TO UNSYG IN THIS SENSE.
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